## MICHAEL OZGA SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE



Durham, ME

Michael Ozga



**RSU5** School Board Candidate

I was born and raised in Michigan and moved to Maine in 1996. My wife and I have lived in Durham since 2003. After 42 years in healthcare (molecular imaging) I retired in 2020. I have a Masters in Health Care Administration & Finance. I am also an avid reader of religious, military, political, economic and social history. I have a six year old grandson and nine year old granddaughter attending public school in Michigan. I have also coached wrestling at various levels throughout the years: grade school, high school and collegiate.

Public education in America dates back to 1647 where a Massachusetts law required towns to establish and maintain schools. Our Founding Fathers recognized that our success as a constitutional republic was reliant upon the competency of its citizens. This would require an educated citizenry. The first of what we would recognize as formal school boards began in the 1820's where a Massachusetts law obliged towns to form their own school board committees. These committees were responsible for budgets as well as curriculum and created to serve as responsible stewards of public education.

Education was a means to provide moral instruction that built character and virtue which was essential to good citizenship. The foundation of this education was reading, writing, arithmetic, history, geography, grammar, etc. Moral instructions instilled civic virtues. This foundational premise stood the test of time until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, whereby school boards ceased to exist as responsible stewards of public education. If elected, it is my intention to restore these values.

Feel free to contact me at mgao1928@gmail.com.